



VFC Shield Alert Follow-Up

VFC Shield Members,

On Aug 26th 2021 two suicide bombers attacked the Abbey Gate of Kabul Airport.

Please see the below open-source assessment of the attacks, as well as related resources.

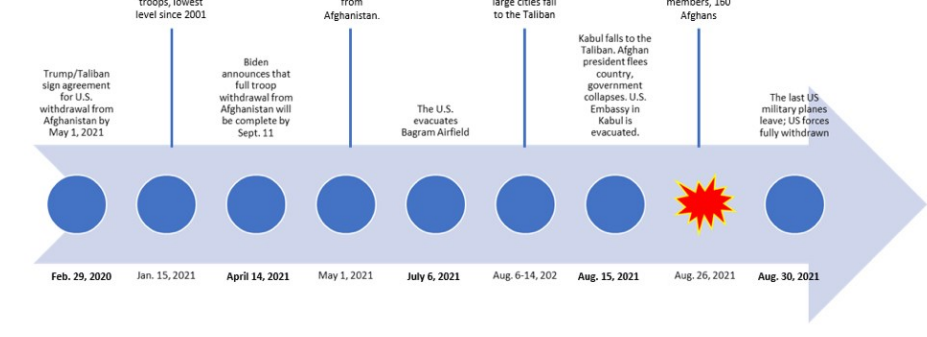


OS Assessment - Bombing of Kabul Airport

Date of Incident - August 29th, 2021

Summary Statement

On August 26, 2021 at approximately 10:15 a.m. local time two explosions occurred near the Abbey Gate of the Kabul Airport in Afghanistan killing over 170 people including 13 American military members.



Attack Overview

On August 26, a suicide bomber detonated explosives at Kabul airport's Abbey Gate where U.S. troops were searching evacuees attempting to depart the country. The bombing killed at least 170 people as well as the 13 U.S. service members.

The attack was the deadliest enemy strike against U.S. forces in Afghanistan since 2011, when militants shot down a Chinook helicopter, killing 30 U.S. troops on board. Eighteen US service members were injured in addition to the 13 dead. ISIS in Khorasan, known as ISIS-K, claimed that an ISIS militant carried out the suicide attack.

On August 28, the US retaliated for suicide attack by conducting a drone strike in Nangahar, a province considered a stronghold for ISIS-K. The Pentagon said two "high value targets" were killed in the strike and a third individual injured but gave no further details. All three casualties are thought to have been travelling together in the vehicle that was hit.

On Sunday, the United States carried out a defensive airstrike in Kabul, targeting a suspected ISIS-K car bomb that posed an "imminent" threat to the airport, US Central Command said. Sunday's drone strike was the second by US forces targeting ISIS-K over the span of three days. "U.S. military forces conducted a self-defense unmanned over-the-horizon airstrike today on a vehicle in Kabul, eliminating an imminent ISIS-K threat to Hamad Karzai International Airport," said US CENTCOM spokesman Capt. Bill Urban. "We are confident we successfully hit the target. Significant secondary explosions from the vehicle indicated the presence of a substantial amount of explosive material."

On Monday, as many as five rockets were launched at Kabul airport, but a US missile defense system intercepted them, and zero casualties were reported as a result of the attack. Local news reports said the attack was carried out from a Kabul neighborhood not far away from the airport using a modified vehicle to launch the rockets.

Despite the attack, the US completed its withdrawal on Monday. In announcing the completion of the evacuation and war effort, Gen. Frank McKenzie, head of U.S. Central Command, said the last planes took off from Kabul airport at 3:29 p.m. Washington time, or one minute before midnight in Kabul. More than 122,000 people were flown out of the country since late July by U.S. military and coalition aircraft, including at least 5,526 U.S. citizens. The White House acknowledged that "100 to 200 Americans remain in Afghanistan with some intention to leave. Most of those who remain are dual citizens, long-time residents who had earlier decided to stay because of their family roots in Afghanistan."



TOOLS AND RESOURCES



Article | theconversation.com

What is ISIS-K?

Two terrorism experts on the group behind the deadly Kabul airport attack and its rivalry with the Taliban

An attack on a crowd gathered outside Kabul's airport on Aug. 26, 2021, has left at least 100 people dead, including at least 13 U.S. troops. ISIS-K claimed responsibility for the coordinated suicide bomb and gun assault, which came just days after President Joe Biden warned that the group – an affiliate of the Islamic State group operating in Afghanistan – was "seeking to target the airport and attack U.S. and allied forces and innocent civilians."

[Read Article](#)



Article | theconversation.com

Where do Afghanistan's refugees go?

Images of thousands of Afghans desperately trying to flee their country following a U.S. withdrawal have provoked an international outcry. But where will they go?

[View Article](#)

SOURCES:

- <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/07/06/us-90-percent-afghanistan-withdrawal-498279>
- <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/06/us-withdrawal-from-afghanistan-is-more-than-90percent-complete.html>
- <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2021/08/26/afghanistan-news-kabul-evacuations-continue-pullout-deadline-looms/5592386001/>
- https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/aug/31/joe-biden-afghanistan-speech-us-military?CMP=oth_b_aplnews_d-1
- <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2021/08/15/timeline-afghanistans-history-and-us-involvement/8143131002/>
- <https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/15/afghan-president-ghani-leaves-the-country-as-the-taliban-moves-on-kabul.html>
- <https://www.ft.com/content/a60082b4-b48a-46fc-ab81-68a7628ff44>
- <https://www.militarytimes.com/flashpoints/2021/08/27/isis-k-planner-killed-in-drone-strike-cwscom-says/>
- <https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-used-a-special-hellfire-missile-in-afghanistan-airstrike-on-islamic-state-11630190876>
- <https://www.businessinsider.com/us-racing-to-get-remaining-troops-american-citizens-kabul-2021-8>
- <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/08/31/remarks-by-president-biden-on-the-end-of-the-war-in-afghanistan/>
- <https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/26/asia/afghanistan-kabul-airport-blast-intl/index.html>

This is an **open-source** product. Redistribution is encouraged.



View Virginia Fusion Center Homepage

[Click Here](#)



Observe Suspicious Activity?

[Report Online](#)

Not a VFC Shield Member?

[Join Today!](#)

"Awareness Through Information Sharing"

This assessment is the result of collaboration and cooperation with the Hanover County Sheriff's Department.



Need Help with this Email?

[View in a browser](#)

Useful Links

VFC Shield

[VFC Fusion Site](#)

"Awareness Through Information Sharing"

[Shield Homepage](#)

[All Products](#)

[Report SAR](#)

[Email Coordinator](#)

The opinions or conclusions of the authors reflected in the open source articles does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Virginia Fusion Center. The sources have been selected to provide you with event information to highlight available resources designed to improve public safety and reduce the probability of becoming a victim of a crime.